

Whereas, under the Constitution, treaties have the status of "supreme law of the land," equally with other laws, and

Whereas, the President does not have the authority to repeal laws, and

Whereas, the President is not authorized to withdraw unilaterally from treaties in general, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in particular, without the consent of Congress, and

Whereas, the President unilaterally withdrew the United States of America from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 without seeking or obtaining the consent of either house of Congress;

Therefore be it resolved,

That the President should respect the Constitutional role of Congress and seek the approval of Congress for the withdrawal of the United States of America from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution that is offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within two legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Ohio will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair does not at this point determine whether or not the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

#### AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO DECLARE RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2002, FOR PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING THE HONORABLE JOHN HOWARD, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, June 12, 2002, for the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting the Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### RECOGNIZING WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES THROUGHOUT AMERICA'S HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, recently, back in my district in central Pennsylv-

vania, I had occasion in connection with the armed services holidays and celebrations to appear with a group of women right in the center of the action of Harrisburg, at the capital area, who were celebrating long service on the part of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

What was brought to bear at that function was the memory of Oveta Culp Hobby, who was from Texas and who was the first Women's Army Corps general; she did not make general, but she was commander of the Women's Army Corps. That is one of the first visions we have had of actual women serving in the service in the modern era.

But women have served in the Armed Forces ever since the Revolution. Many of them served, of course, as nurses throughout all the conflicts, and they were Army and Navy and Air Force nurses, actually, so they were part of the Armed Forces. But we have had many, many different examples in the Revolutionary War, in the Mexican War, in the Civil War, and all the modern wars, so to speak, of women posing as men for the sole privilege on their part of wielding a weapon and engaging in fierce combat. Hundreds and maybe thousands of such cases can be found in the history of armed conflict in the United States.

The remainder of the function in which we participated was to give recognition to modern day women participants in the current ranks of the Armed Forces, so it was a splendid day.

One thing that was evident throughout all of this was that the women exhibited extreme pride in their current status as members of the Armed Forces and in the reverence with which they spoke about their predecessors, and the same women about whom I have made reference in the history of armed conflict in the history of our country.

So we ought to know that when we celebrate the national holidays, like the one now coming up, Independence Day on July 4, that we include in our celebration the thought and memory of the gallant women, as well as our men; the women who, from the Declaration of Independence until the current season of the war on terrorism, when women are flying combat missions, women are participating in practically every form of armed conflict or preparation therefor; and that we should not anymore, throughout the remainder of the history of the Nation, conduct the holiday and celebrate our history without due concern and mention and recollection of the deeds of the women of our society who plunged themselves into armed conflict along with the men that we have honored for so many years.

#### INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF SCARCITY OF NATIONAL BURIAL SPACE FOR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak for a few minutes to a problem that I know faces congressmen all over this Nation. That is the lack of national burial space for our veterans of our Armed Forces.

I live in San Diego County, where we have almost 300,000 veterans. The national cemetery at Fort Rosecrans is out of space. There is no place for an honorable burial of a veteran in his or her hometown. We have to drive 100 miles or so to Riverside County, and that is just not what most families want to do with their loved ones.

We have figured out an innovative solution in San Diego County that I want to share with my colleagues and hope that they help us pass a resolution from this Congress which would instruct the Department of Veterans Affairs to help us with this innovative solution.

I have introduced H.R. 4806, the Honorable Burial for Veterans Act, along with my colleagues and the San Diego County delegation, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. Davis), and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Each and every veteran in our county is concerned that upon his or her demise, interment may become a source of frustration for family and close friends. Many families are left with an impossible dilemma: cremation, where only a few spaces actually exist in the columbarium, or a ground burial at a cemetery a 2-hour drive away.

We should not force this decision on the families of our Nation's veterans. When we called on them to serve, they did not hesitate. Now, in their last hour, a grateful Nation should not hesitate to assist their families.

My colleagues and I want to build a second National Cemetery in San Diego, and we are on the list to do that. In fact, it may take a decade or more before we get around to doing that cemetery on the VA list. In the meantime, we should not abandon our veterans' families in their time of grief.

My bill would provide San Diego with an interim solution. A local effort among the private sector and local authorities and veterans' organizations has produced what I would consider to be an excellent pilot program. Two parcels of land, about 20 acres each, have been identified in the northern and southern parts of our county in what are now private cemeteries. They have offered this land to the Veterans Administration free of charge to become what we will call satellite cemeteries to the National Cemetery in our county.

We have a generous offer of land from the Service Corporation International which would be donated to a 501(c)(3) organization, the Veterans Memorial Center and Museum in San Diego, who will then turn that over to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I thank all the folks who have tried to come up with this solution back in